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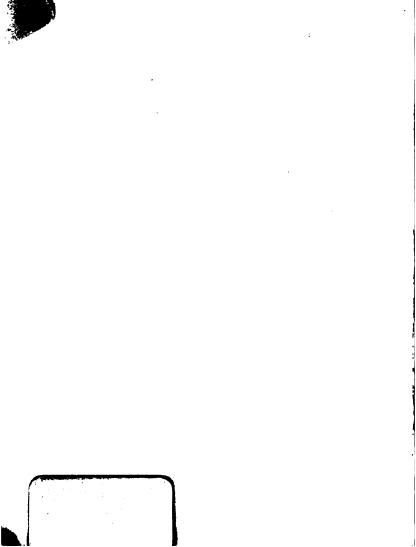
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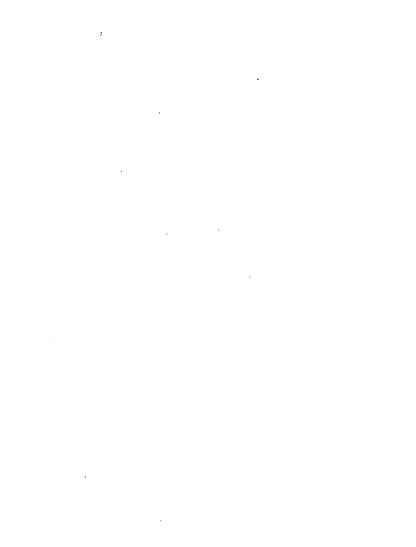
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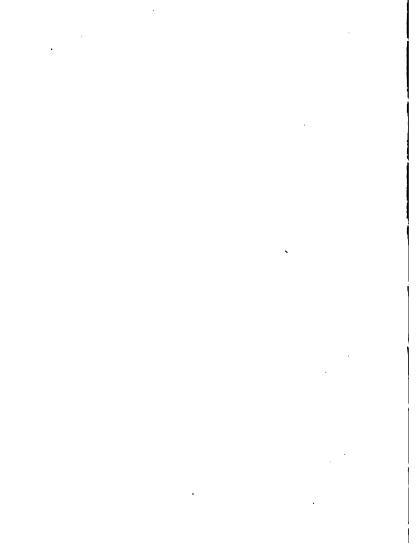






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Emerson Birthday Book

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DODGE PUBLISHING COMPANY
220 EAST 23d STREET

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THE NEW YORK

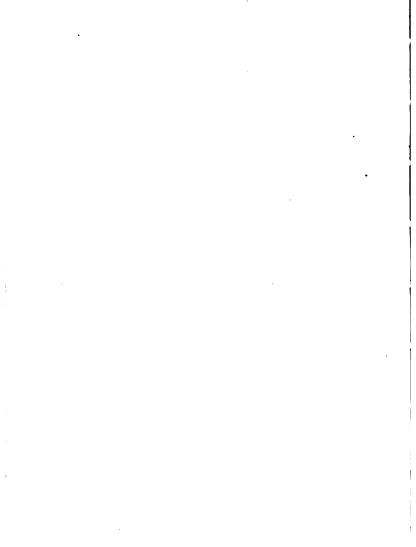
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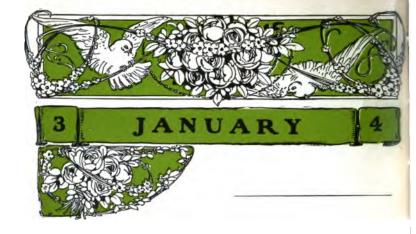
EMERSON BIRTHDAY BOOK



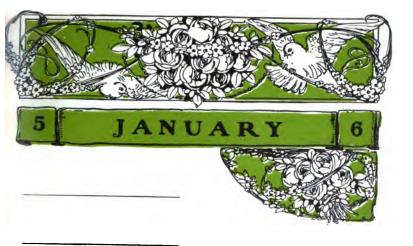


WHAT I must do is all that concerns me; not what the people think.

SOCIETY never advances. It recedes as fast on one side as it gains on the other. Its progress is only apparent, like the workers of a treadmill.

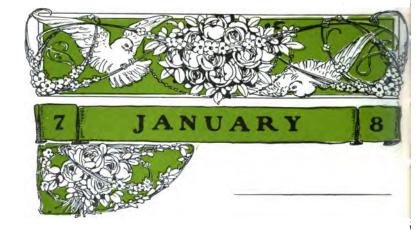


I AWOKE this morning with devout thanksgiving for my friends, the old and the new. Shall I not call God the Beautiful, who daily showeth Himself so to me in His gifts? M ASSACHU-SETTS, Connecticut River and Boston Bay you think paltry places, and the ear loves names of foreign and classic topography. But here we are: that is a great fact, and, if we will tarry a little, we may come to learn that here is best.



HE that finds God a
sweet enveloping
thought to him never
counts his company....
When I rest in perfect
humility, when I burn with
pure love, what can Calvin
or Swedenborg say?

EVERY ship is a romantic object, except that we sail in. Embark, and the romance quits our vessel and hangs on every other sail on the horizon.



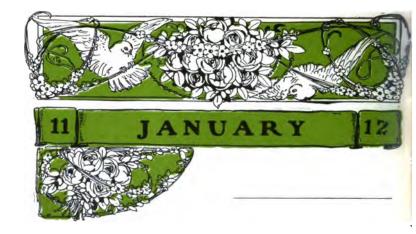
A BEAUTIFUL form is better than a beautiful face; a beautiful behavior is better than a beautiful form.

THE attributes of a person, his wit and his moral energy, will exercise, under any law or extinguishing tyranny, their proper force.



THE boundaries of personal influence it is impossible to fix, as persons are organs of moral or supernatural force.

YOU will always find those who think they know what is your duty better than you know it.



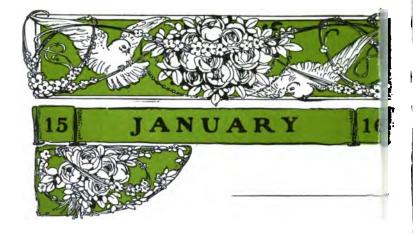
A CULTIVATED man hates what he has if he see that it is accidental—came to him by inheritance, or gift, or crime: then he feels that it is not having; it does not belong to him, has no root in him.

WHO hears me, who understands me, becomes mine—a possession for all time. Nor is nature so poor but she gives me this joy several times.



SEE to it only that Thyself is here, and art and nature, hope and dread, friends, angels and the Supreme Being shall not be absent from the chamber where thou sittest.

FRONT the morrow in the negligency of that trust which carries God with it, and so hath already the whole future in the bottom of the heart.



NATURE and books belong to the eyes that see them. It depends on the mood of the man whether he shall see the sunset or the fine poem. A MAN is but a little thing in the midst of the objects of nature, yet, by the moral quality radiating from his countenance, he may abolish all considerations of magnitude, and in his manners equal the majesty of the world.

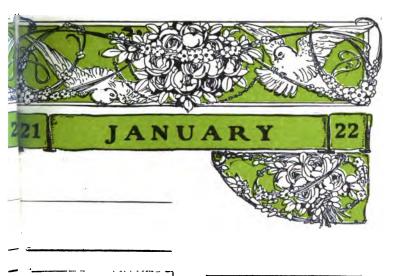


AN abstract of the code of nations would be a transcript of the common conscience.

A MAN has a right to be employed, to be trusted, to be loved, to be revered.



THE power of love, as the basis of a State, has never been tried. THERE is a mortifying experience . . . I mean "the foolish face of praise," the forced smile which we put on in company where we do not feel at ease, in answer to conversation which does not interest us.



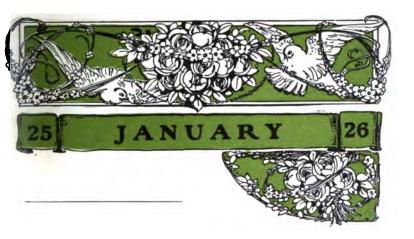
EVERY act rewards itself, or in other words integrates itself, in a twofold manner: first, in the thing, or in real nature; and secondly, in the circumstance, or in apparent nature.

HAPPY is the house that shelters a friend! It might well be built, like a festal bower or arch, to entertain him a single day.



IT was a high counsel that I once heard given to a young person, "Always do what you are afraid to do."

GOOD as is discourse, silence is better and shames it. The length of the discourse indicates the distance of thought betwixt the speaker and the hearer.



KNOW that thy life is a flitting state, a tent for a night; and do thou, sick or well, finish that stint.

THIS is right and pleasing when a
man's biography is conveyed in his gift
But it is a cold, lifeless
business when you go to
the shops to buy me something which does not represent your life and talent, but a goldsmith's.



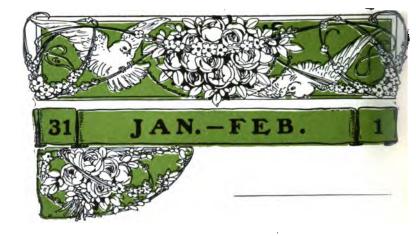
WILD liberty develops iron conscience.
Want of liberty, by strengthening law and decorum, stupefies conscience.

EACH of us has some talent, can do somewhat useful, or graceful, or formidable, or amusing, or lucrative.



DEAL so plainly with man and woman as to constrain the utmost sincerity and destroy all hope of trifling with you.

THE heart refuses to be imprisoned: in its first and narrowest pulses it already tends outward with a vast force and to immense and innumerable expansions.



A BEAUTY not explicable is dearer than a beauty which we can see to the end of.

SOME stars.... on an old rag of bunting.... at the ends of the earth, shall make the blood tingle. The people fancy they hate poetry, and they are all poets and mystics.





OULD we not pay our friend the compliment of truth, of silence, of forbearing? Need we be so eager to seek him? If we are related, we shall meet.

IT seems as if the day was not wholly profane, in which we have given heed to some natural object.



THE strongest usurper is quickly got rid of; and they only who built on Ideas, build for eternity.

THE gladiators in the lists of power feel, through all their frocks of force and simulation, the presence of worth.



6 FEBRUARY



THERE never was in any man sufficient faith in the power of rectitude, to inspire him with the broad design of renovating the State on the principle of right and love.

ALL persons exist to society by some shining trait of beauty or utility, which they have.



THERE is the man and his virtues. Men do what is called a good action, as some piece of courage or charity, much as they would pay a fine in expiation of daily non-

appearance on parade.

TRAVELLING is a fool's paradise. We owe to our first journeys the discovery that place is nothing.



THE lover ascends to the highest beauty, to the love and knowledge of the Divinity, by steps on this ladder of created souls.

THE essence of greatness is the perception that virtue is enough. Poverty is its ornament.



WE are all discerners of spirits. That diagnosis lies aloft in our life or unconscious power, not in the understanding. WE love the poet, the inventor, who in any form, whether in an ode, or in an action, or in looks and behavior, has yielded us a new thought. He unlocks our chains and admits us to a new scene.



THE average spirit of the energetic class is good sense, acting under certain limitations and to certain ends.

THE reveries of the true and simple are prophetic. What the tender poetic youth dreams, and prays, and paints to-day, but shuns the ridicule of saying aloud, shall presently be the resolutions of public bodies.



OUR talent is a sort of expiation, and we are constrained to reflect on our splendid moment, with a certain humiliation, as somewhat too fine, and not as one act of many acts, a fair expression of our permanent energy.

FEAR never but you shall be consistent in whatever variety of actions, so they be each honest and natural in their hour.



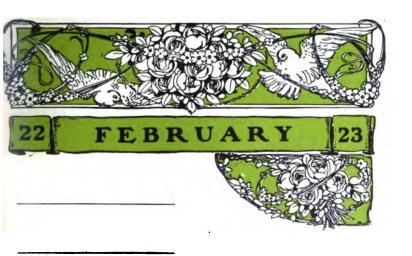
EXPERIENCED men of the world know very well that it is best to pay scot and lot as they go along, and that a man often pays dear for a small frugality.

LOVE is only the reflection of a man's own worthiness from other men. Men have sometimes exchanged names with their friends, as if they would signify that in their friend each loved his own soul.



THE least activity of the intellectual powers redeems us in a degree from the influences of time. In sickness, in languor, give us a strain of poetry or a profound sentence, and we are refreshed.

THIS old age ought not to creep on a human mind. In nature every moment is new.

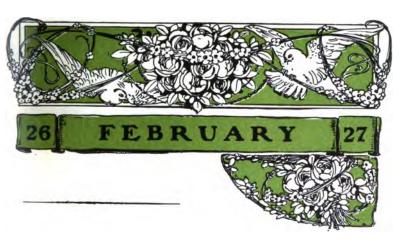


LOVE is inexhaustible, and if its estate is wasted, its granary emptied, still cheers and enriches.

OUR action on each other, good as well as evil, is so incidental and at random, that we can seldom hear the acknowledgments of any person who would thank us for a benefit, without some shame and humiliation.



THE difference between landscape and landscape is small, but there is great difference in the beholders. MOST persons of ability meet in society with a kind of tacit appeal. Each seems to say, "I am not all here."



REATNESS always appeals to the future. If I can be great enough now to do right and scorn eyes, I must have done so much right before as to defend me now.

ALL infractions of love and equity in our social relations are speedily punished. They are punished by fear.



THE only money of God is God. He pays never with anything less, or anything else. The only reward of virtue is virtue; the only way to have a friend is to be one.

SOME thoughts always find us young, and keep us so. Such a thought is the love of the universal and eternal beauty.



PEOPLE wish to be settled: only as far as they are unsettled is there any hope for them.

> SOME natures are too good to be spoiled by praise, and wherever the vein of thought reaches down into the profound there is no danger from vanity.



SHE was heaven whilst he pursued her as a star: she cannot be heaven, if she stoops to such a one as he. THE idea, after which every community is aiming to make and amend its law, is, the will of the wise man.

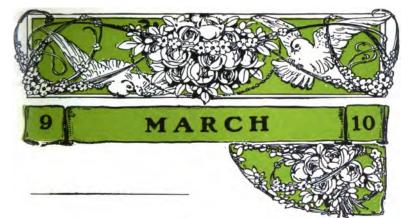


IF a man found himself so rich-natured that he could enter into strict relations with the best persons, and make life serene around him by the dignity and sweetness of his behavior, could he afford to covet relations so hollow and pompous as those of a politician?

WE but half express ourselves, and are ashamed of that divine idea which each of us represents.



COD will not have His work made manifest by cowards. It needs a divine man to exhibit anything divine. A MAN is relieved and gay when he has put his heart into his work and done his best: but what he has said or done otherwise shall give him no peace.



ACCEPT the place the divine providence has found for you, the society of your contemporaries, the connexion of events.

SOCIETY is a jointstock company, in which the members agree, for the better securing of his bread to each shareholder, to surrender the liberty and culture of the eater.



WHOSO would be a man, must be a nonconformist. He who would gather immortal palms must not be hindered by the name of goodness, but must explore if it be goodness.

IT is alike your interest, and mine, and all men's, however long we have dwelt in lies, to live in truth.



IF a man know that he can do anything—that he can do it better than any one else—he has a pledge of the acknowledgment of that fact by all persons.

THE State must follow and not lead the character and progress of the citizen.



PROPORTION is almost impossible to human beings. There is no one who does not exaggerate.

LIVELY boys write to their ear and eye, and the cool reader finds nothing but sweet jingles in it.



LIFE only avails: not the having lived. Power ceases in the instant of repose.

THE whole course of things goes to teach us faith. We need only obey. There is a guidance for each of us, and by lowly listening we shall hear the right word.



T is a proverb that "courtesy costs nothing"; but calculation might come to value love for its profit.

THE soul is the perceiver and revealer of truth. We know truth when we see it, let skeptic and scoffer say what they choose.



THE sweetest music is not in the oratorio, but in the human voice when it speaks from its instant life tones of tenderness, truth, or courage.

A CIRCLE of men perfectly well-bred, would be a company of sensible persons in which every man's native manners and character appeared.



THE masses are not men, but poor men, that is, men who would be rich: this is the ridicule of the class, that they arrive with pains and sweat and fury nowhere.

THE wise man His relation to men is angelic; his memory is myrrh to them; his presence, frankincense and flowers.



ART, in the artist, is proportion, or, a habitual respect to the whole by an eye loving beauty in details.

A LL things show us that on every side we are very near to the best.



VIRTUE is the govemor, the creator, the reality. All things real are so by so much virtue as they contain. ALL the good of nature is the soul's, and may be had if paid for in nature's lawful coin, that is, by labor which the heart and the head allow.



LET a man keep the law—any law—and his way will be strown with satisfactions. There is more difference in the quality of our pleasures than in the amount.

THE lover has no talent, no skill, which passes for quite nothing with his enamored maiden, however little she may possess of related faculty; and the heart which abandons itself to the Supreme Mind finds itself related to all its works.



OD offers to every mind its choice between truth and repose. Take which you please you cannot have both. THE habit, even in little and the least matters, of not appealing to any but our own sense of propriety, constitutes the foundation of all chivalry.



A MAN can only speak, so long as he does not feel his speech to be partial and inadequate.

THE wise man needs no army, fort or navy — he loves men too well.



I READ for the lustres, as if one should use a fine picture in a chromatic experiment, for its rich colors. THE preference of the genius to the parts, is the secret of that deification of art which is found in all superior minds.



DO your thing, and I shall know you. Do your work, and you shall reinforce yourself.

NOTHING can bring you peace but yourself. Nothing can bring you peace but the triumph of principle.



LET us approach our friend with an audacious trust in the truth of his heart, in the breadth, impossible to be overturned, of his foundations.

THE characteristic of genuine heroism is its persistency. All men have wandering impulses, fits and starts of generosity.



EVERY personal consideration that we allow costs us heavenly state. We sell the thrones of angels for a short and turbulent pleasure.

IF we will take the good we find, asking no questions, we shall have heaping measures.



WHAT is rich? Are you rich enough to help anybody?.... Without the rich heart, wealth is an ugly beggar. THE only gift is a portion of thyself....
Therefore the poet brings his poem; the shepherd, his lamb; the farmer, corn; the girl, a handkerchief of her own sewing.



WE must not doubt that roads can be built, letters carried, and the fruit of labor secured, when the government of force is at an end.

GREAT men or men of great gifts you shall easily find, but symmetrical men never.



OUR exaggeration of all fine characters arises from the fact that we identify each in turn with the soul. IF we live truly, we shall see truly. It is as easy for the strong man to be strong, as it is for the weak to be weak.



THE most fugitive deed and word, the mere air of doing a thing, the intimated purpose, expresses character.

LET us suck the sweetness of those affections and consuetudes that grow near us. Those old shoes are easy to the feet.



IF we will not interfere with our thought, but will act entirely, or see how the thing stands in God, we know the particular thing, and every thing, and every man. THE hand can never
execute anything
higher than the character
can inspire.



ANY deference to some eminent man or woman of the world, forfeits all privilege of nobility. He is an underling: I have nothing to do with him; I will speak with his master.

THE accepted and betrothed lover has lost the wildest charm of his maiden in her acceptance of him.



EVERY thought which genius and piety throw into the world, alters the world.

IN any controversy concerning morals, an appeal may be made with safety to the sentiments which the language of the people expresses.



MONEY, which represents the prose of life, and which is hardly spoken of in parlors without an apology, is, in its effects and laws, as beautiful as roses.

EVERY man is wanted, and no man is wanted much. We came this time for condiments, not for com.



RIGHTLY, every man is a channel through which heaven floweth, and, whilst I fancied I was criticising him, I was censuring or rather terminating my own soul.

IT is the secret of the world that all things subsist and do not die, but only retire a little from sight and afterwards return again.



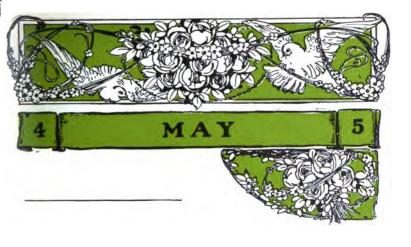
WE are as ungrateful as children. There is nothing we cherish and strive to draw to us, but in some hour we turn and rend it.

HOW sincere and confidential we can be, saying all that lies in the mind, and yet go away feeling that all is yet unsaid, from the incapacity of the parties to know each other, although they use the same words!



A MAN is to make himself felt by his proper force. The tendency of things runs steadily to this point, namely, to put every man on his merits, and to give him so much power as he naturally exerts—no more, no less.

MAN is one, and
you cannot injure
any member without a
sympathetic injury to all
the members.



THE sentiment of Right, once very low and indistinct, but ever more articulate, because it is the voice of the universe, pronounces Freedom.

WHEN private men shall act with original views, the lustre will be transferred from the actions of kings to those of gentlemen.



T is thought a disgrace to love unrequited. But the great will see that true love cannot be unrequited. THE soul looketh steadily forwards, creating a world alway before her, leaving worlds alway behind her The soul knows only the soul: all else is idle weeds for her wearing.



THE difference between talents and character is adroitness to keep the old and trodden round, and power and courage to make a new road to new and better goals.

WE shall one day see
that the most private is the most public
energy, that quality atones
for quantity, and grandeur
of character acts in the
dark and succors those
who never saw it.



OUR hunting of the picturesque is inseparable from our protest against false society. WHILST I do what is fit for me, and abstain from what is unfit, my neighbor and I shall often agree in our means and work together for a time to one end.



ARE our methods now so excellent that all competition is hopeless? Could not a nation of friends even devise better ways?

WHEN we have broken our god of tradition and ceased from our god of rhetoric, then may God fire the heart with His presence.



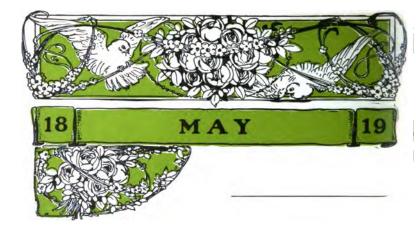
EVERY man is not so much a workman in the world as he is a suggestion of that he should be. Men walk as prophecies of the next age. EVERY man is so far a poet as to be susceptible of these enchantments of nature: for all men have the thoughts whereof the universe is the celebration.



A DIVINE person is the prophecy of the mind; a friend is the hope of the heart. Our beatitude waits for the fulfillment of these two in one.

THE heart of love.

This is the royal blood, this is the fire which, in all countries and contingencies, will work after its kind, and conquer and expand all that approaches it.



RECTITUDE scatters favors on every side without knowing it, and receives with wonder the thanks of all people.

OTHERS eat your service like apples, and leave you out. But love them, and they feel you, and delight in you all the time.



WE nestle in nature, and draw our living as parasites from her roots and grains, and we receive glances from the heavenly bodies, which call us to solitude and foretell the remotest future.

THERE will always be a government of force, where men are selfish; and when they are pure enough to abjure the code of force, they will be wise enough to see how these public ends of the post-office, of the highway, of commerce can be answered.



WE pass for what we a re. Character teaches above our wills. Men imagine that they communicate their virtue or vice only by overt actions, and do not see that virtue or vice emit a breath every moment.

TREAT men as pawns and ninepins and you shall suffer as well as they. If you leave out their heart, you shall lose your own.



WHAT is so great as
Friendship, let us
carry with what grandeur
of spirit we can. Let us
be silent—so we may hear
the whisper of the gods.

WE lie open on one side to the deeps of spiritual nature, to all the attributes of God. Justice we see and know, Love, Freedom, Power.



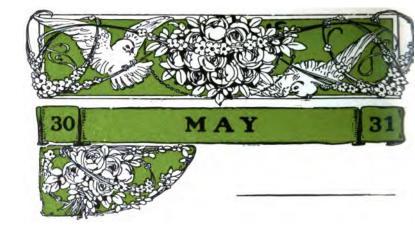
IF a man should dedicate himself to the payment of notes, would not this be injustice? Owes he no debt but money? And are all claims on him to be postponed to a landlord's or a banker's?

THE will of the pure runs down from them into other natures, as water runs down from a higher into a lower vessel. This natural force is no more to be withstood than any other natural force.



YOU cannot give anything to a magnanimous person. After you have served him, he at once puts you in debt by his magnanimity.

THERE is a middle measure which satisfies all parties, be they never so many or so resolute for their own.



THERE is not, among the most religious and instructed men...a sufficient belief... that the private citizen might be reasonable and a good neighbor, without the hint of a jail or a confiscation.

THE relations of the soul to the Divine Spirit are so pure that it is profane to seek to interpose helps.



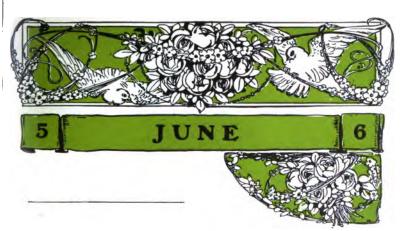
LOVE, and you shall be loved. All love is mathematically just, as much as the two sides of an algebraic equation.

THE essence of friendship is entireness, a total magnanimity and trust. It must not surmise or provide for infirmity. It treats its objects as a god, that it may deify both.



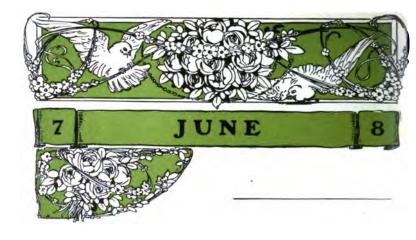
THE soul's advances are not made by gradation, such as can be represented by motion in a straight line, but rather by ascension of state, such as can be represented by metamorphosis—from the egg to the worm, from the worm to the fly.

TRUE conquest is the causing the black event to fade and disappear as an early cloud of insignificant result in a history so large and advancing.

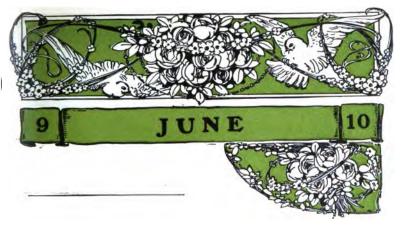


THAT love which is all-suffering, all-abstaining, all-aspiring only the pure and aspiring can know its face, and the only compliment they can pay it is to own it.

WE see the foaming brook with compunction: if our own life flowed with the right energy, we should shame the brook.



NATURE sends no creature, no man into the world, without adding a small excess of his proper quality. THOUSANDS of human beings might exercise towards each other the grandest and simplest sentiments, as well as a knot of friends, or a pair of lovers.

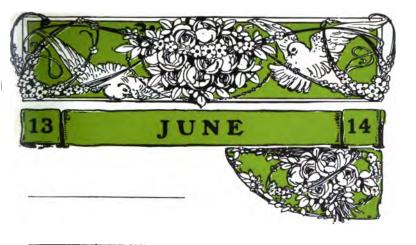


MISUNDER STOOD! It is a right fool's word. Is it so bad then to be misunderstood? Pythagoras was misunderstood, and Socrates, and Jesus, and Luther, and Copernicus, and Galileo, and Newton, and every pure and wise spirit that ever took flesh.

A MAN cannot speak but he judges himself. With his will or against his will he draws his portrait to the eyes of his companions by every word.

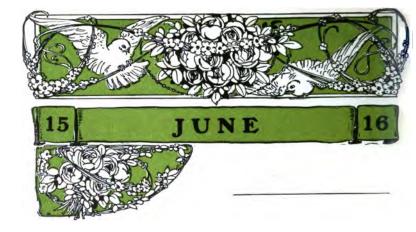


LEAVE it to boys and girls to regard a friend as property, and to suck a short and all-confounding pleasure, instead of the pure nectar of God. THE Supreme Critic on all the errors of the past and the present, and the only prophet of that which must be, is that great nature in which we rest as the earth lies in the soft arms of the atmosphere.



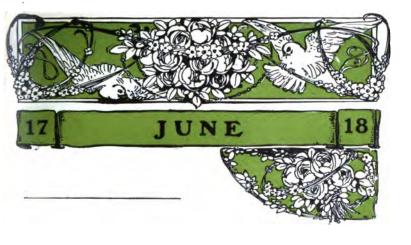
WHILST we converse with what is above us, we do not grow old, but grow young.

RECTITUDE is a perpetual victory, celebrated not by cries of joy but by serenity, which is joy fixed or habitual.



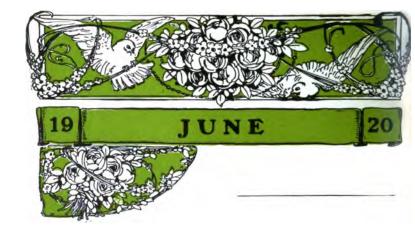
COMPARED with that good-will I bear my friend, the benefit it is in my power to render him seems small.

ABSOLUTE Right is the first governor; or every government is an impure theocracy.

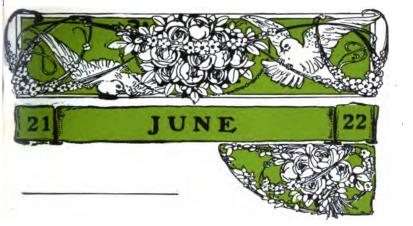


THE men of fine parts
protect themselves
by solitude, or by courtesy,
or by satire, or by an acid
wordly manner, each concealing, as he best can,
his incapacity for useful
association, but they want
either love or self-reliance.

IN your metaphysics you have denied personality to the Deity, yet when the devout motions of the soul come, yield to them heart and life, though they should clothe God with shape and color.

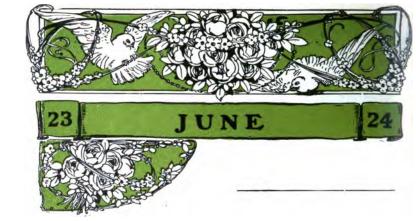


THE soul says, Eat; the body would feast. The soul says, The man and woman shall be one flesh and one soul; the body would join the flesh only. FRIENDSHIP demands a religious treatment. We must not be wilful, we must not provide. We talk of choosing our friends, but friends are self-elected.



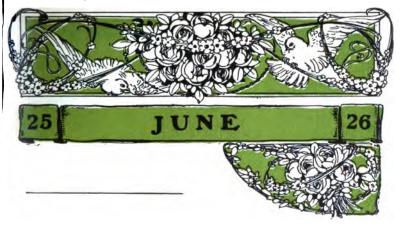
THE unremitting retention of simple and high sentiments in obscure duties is hardening the character to that temper which will work with honor, if need be in the tumult, or on the scaffold.

COMMERCE is of trivial import: love, faith, truth of character, the aspiration of man—these are sacred.



THE ardors of piety agree at last with the coldest skepticism—that nothing is of us or our works, that all is of God.... All writing comes by the grace of God, and all doing and having.

HE is a good man who can receive a gift well. We are either glad or sorry at a gift, and both emotions are unbecoming.

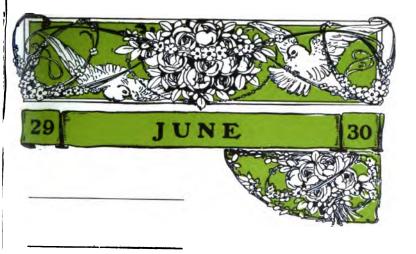


GOVERNMENTS have their origin in the moral identity of men. Reason for one is seen to be reason for another and for every other.

YOUNG people admire talents or particular excellencies; as we grow older we value total powers and effects—as, the impression, the quality, the spirit of men and things.

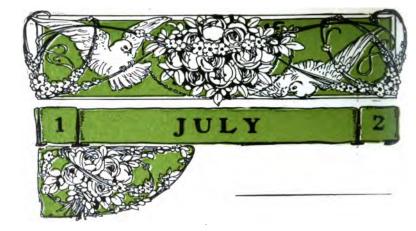


A MAN is to carry himself in the presence of all opposition as if every thing were titular and ephemeral but he. THE prayer of the farmer kneeling in his field to weed it, the prayer of the rower, kneeling with the stroke of his oar, are true prayers heard throughout nature, though for cheap ends.



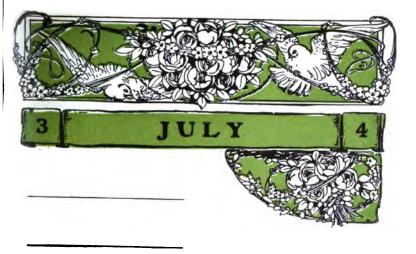
THE epochs of our life are not in the visible facts.... but in a silent thought by the wayside as we walk; in a thought which revises our entire manner of life and says, Thus hast thou done, but it were better thus.

LET a man believe in God, and not in names and places and persons.



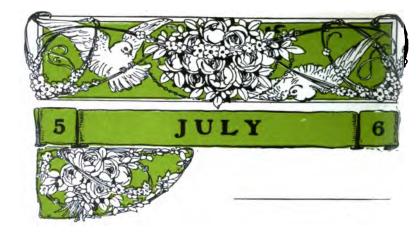
LOVE.... is a fire that glows and enlarges until it warms and beams upon multitudes of men and women, upon the universal heart of all, and so lights up the whole world and all nature with its generous flames.

COOLNESS and absence of heat and haste indicate fine qualities. A gentleman makes no noise; a lady is serene.



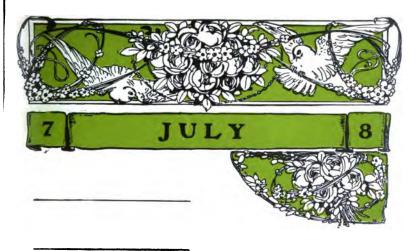
THE wise know that foolish legislation is a rope of sand, which perishes in the twisting.

IT is because we know how much is due from us, that we are impatient to show some petty talent as a substitute for worth.



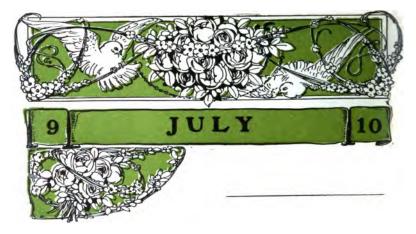
WE are very sensible of an atmospheric influence in men and in bodies of men, not accounted for in an arithmetical addition of all their measurable properties.

THE soul that ascendeth to worship the great God is plain and true; has no rose color.



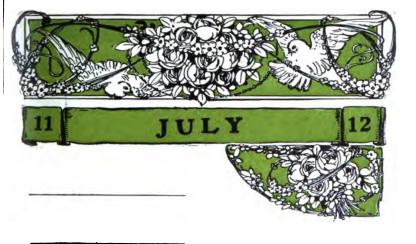
THE Key to every man is his thought—Sturdy and defiant though he look, he has a helm which he obeys, which is the idea after which all his tacts are classified.

THE poet's cheerfulness should be the gift of the sunlight; the air should suffice for his inspiration, and he should be tipsy with water.



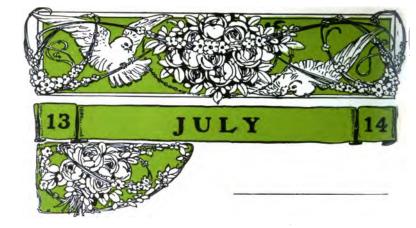
WE chase some flying scheme but if suddenly we encounter a friend we pause; our heat and hurry look foolish enough.

HE who knows the most, he who knows what sweets and virtues are in the ground, the waters, the plants, the heavens, and how to come at these enchantments, is the rich and royal man.

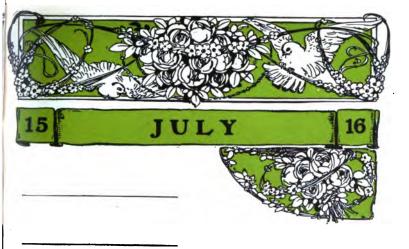


THE stars at night stoop down over the brownest, homeliest common, with all the spiritual magnificence which they shed on the Campagna or on the marble deserts of Egypt.

THE stream of zeal sparkles with real fire, and not with reflex rays of sun and moon.

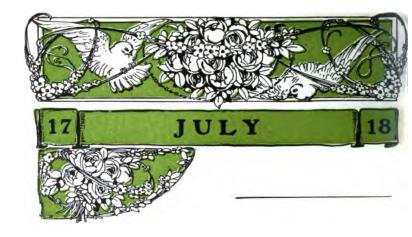


IF I put myself in the place of my child, and we stand in one thought and see that things are thus or thus, that perception is law for him and me. We are both there, both act. THE property will be found where the labor, the wisdom, and the virtue have been in nations, in classes, and in the individual also.



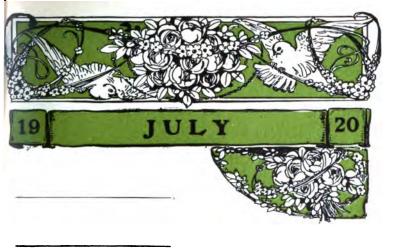
THE soul is superior to its knowledge, wiser than any of its works. The great poet makes us feel our own wealth, and then we think less of his compositions.

OUR life is an apprenticeship to the truth that around every circle another can be drawn; that there is no end in nature, but every end is a beginning.



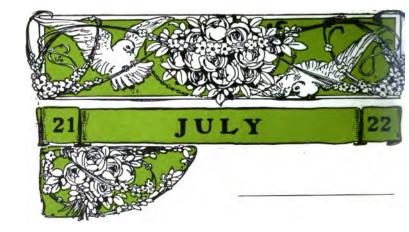
THE spirit of the world,
the great calm presence of the Creator, comes
not forth to the sorceries of
opium or of wine. The
sublime vision comes to
the pure and simple soul in
a clean and chaste body

FRIENDS follow the laws of divine necessity: they gravitate to each other and cannot otherwise.



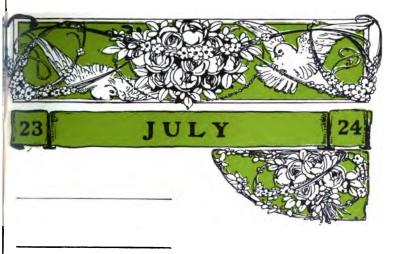
THE heart of love....
This gives new
meanings to every fact.
This impoverishes the rich,
suffering no grandeur but
its own.

THE service a man renders his friend is trivial and selfish compared with the service he knows his friend stood in readiness to yield him.



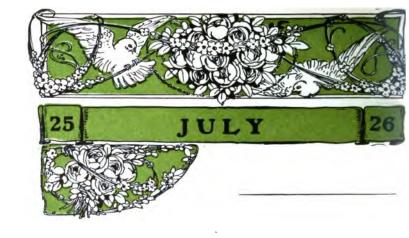
EVERY man finds a sanction for his simplest claims and deeds in decisions of his own mind, which he calls Truth and Holiness.

ALL forms of government symbolize an immortal government, common to all dynasties and independent of numbers—perfect where two men exist, perfect where there is only one man.



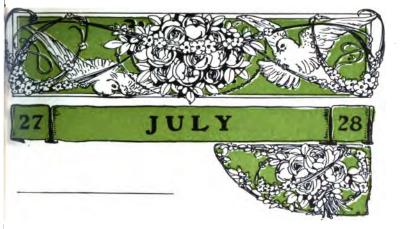
THE modernness of all good books seems to give me an existence as wide as man.

EVERY thing must have its flower or effort at the beautiful, coarser or finer according to its stuff.



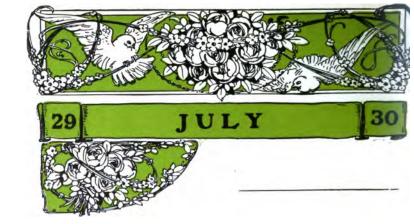
THE rotation which whirls every leaf and pebble to the meridian, reaches to every gift of man, and we all take turns at the top.

AS long as any man exists, there is some need of him; let him fight for his own.



LET it be a new way of living. Why have only two or three ways of life, and not thousands?

WE want the great genius only for joy; for one star more in our constellation, for one tree more in our grove.

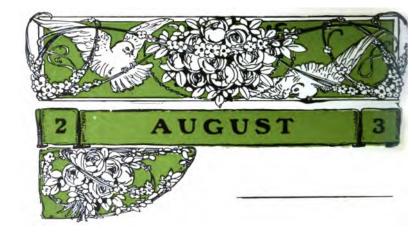


EVERY individual is entitled to honor, and a very generous treatment is sure to be repaid. IF you criticise a fine genius, the odds are that you are out of your reckoning and, instead of the poet, are censuring your own caricature of him.

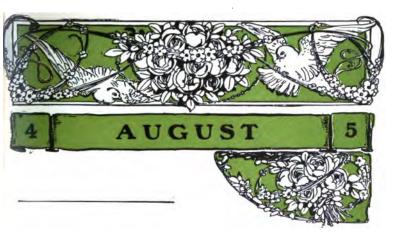


LOVE shows me the opulence of nature by disclosing to me in my friend a hidden wealth, and I infer an equal depth of good in every other direction.

A GOOD pear or apple costs no more time or pains to rear than a poor one: so I would have no work of art, no speech, or action, or friend, but the best.

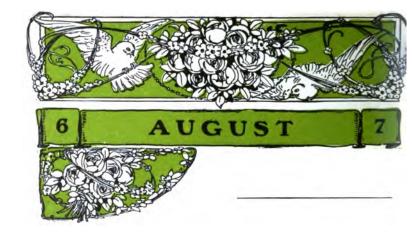


NATURE is not slow to equip us in the prison uniform of the party to which we adhere. We come to wear one cut of face and figure, and acquire by degrees the gentlest asinine expression. THERE is always some levelling circumstance that puts down the overbearing, the strong, the rich, the fortunate, substantially on the same ground with all others.



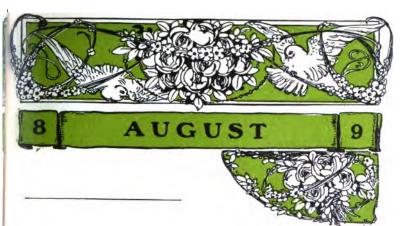
THE sweet sincerity of joy and peace which I draw from this alliance with my brother's soul, is the nut itself whereof all nature and all thought is but the husk and shell.

WHEN you have resolved to be great, abide by yourself, and do not weakly try to reconcile yourself with the world. The heroic cannot be the common, nor the common the heroic.



THE facts which loomed so large in the fogs of yesterday—property, climate, breeding, personal beauty and the like, have strangely changed their proportions.

THOU, God's darling!
... wilt not be
missed in the scorning and
scepticism: there are
enough of them: stay
there in thy closet, and
toil, until the rest are
agreed what to do about
it.



WHAT is vulgar, but to refuse the claim on acute and conclusive reasons? What is gentle, but to allow it, and give their heart and yours one holiday from the national caution?

THE law of benefits is a difficult channel, which requires careful sailing or rude boats. It is not the office of a man to receive gifts.



EVERY reform was once a private opinion, and when it shall be a private opinion again it will solve the problem of the age.

THE world exists for the education of each man. There is no age or state of society or mode of action in history to which there is not somewhat corresponding in his life.



THE trivial experience of every day is always verifying some old prediction to us and converting into things for us also the words and signs which we had heard and seen without heed.

THE advancing man discovers how deep a property he hath in literature He finds that the poet was no odd fellow but that universal man who wrote by his pen a confession true for one and true for all.



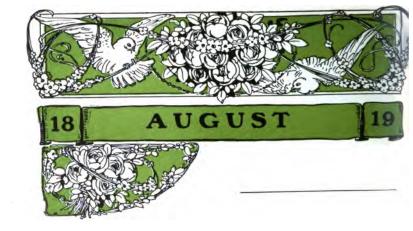
A MIND might ponder its thought for ages and not gain so much self-knowledge as the passion of love shall teach it in a day.

IN every work of genius we recognize our own rejected thoughts: they come back to us with a certain alienated majesty.



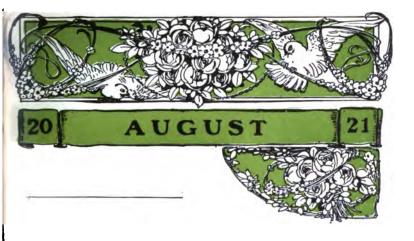
THE eye was placed where one ray should fall, that it might testify of that particular ray.

THIS is the ultimate fact . . . the resolution of all into the everblessed ONE.



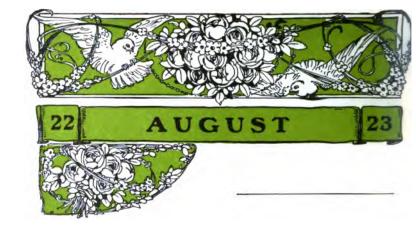
A HIGHER law than that of our will regulates events Our painful labors are very unnecessary and altogether fruitless . . . Only in our easy, simple, spontaneous action are we strong.

POETRY and prudence should be coincident. Poets should be lawgivers: that is, the boldest lyric inspiration should not chide and insult, but should announce and lead the civil code and the day's work.



THE best minds, who love truth for its own sake, think much less of property in truth. Thankfully they accept it everywhere, and do not label or stamp it with any man's name, for it is theirs from eternity.

THERE is somewhat more blessed and great in hearing than in speaking. Happy is the hearing man: unhappy the speaking man.



GOD knows that all sorts of gentlemen knock at the door; but whenever used in strictness and with any emphasis, the name will be found to point at original energy.

NO man is quite sane:
each has a vein of
folly in his composition, a
slight determination of
blood to the head, to
make sure of holding him
hard to some one point
which nature had taken
to heart.



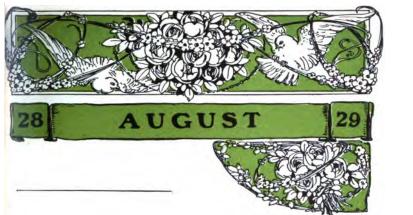
REAT causes are never tried on their ments; but the cause is reduced to particulars to suit the size of the partizans, and the contention is ever hottest on minor matters.

WHEN a man lives
with God, his
voice shall be as sweet as
the murmur of the brook
and the rustle of the corn.



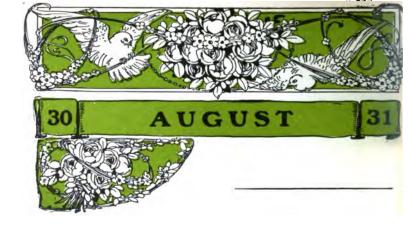
ONLY that soul can be my friend which I encounter on the line of my own march, that soul to which I do not decline and which does not decline to me, but, native of the same celestial latitude, repeats in its own all my experience.

ASSUME a consent and it shall presently be granted, since really and underneath their all external diversities, all men are of one heart and mind.



THE soul's communication of truth is the highest event in nature, for it then does not give somewhat from itself, but it gives itself, or passes into and becomes that man whom it enlightens.

ALL men live by truth, and stand in need of expression. . . . The man is only half himself, the other half is his expression.



I LIKE that every chair should be a throne, and hold a king. I prefer a tendency to stateliness, to an excess of fellowship. OUR actions are seconded and disposed to greater conclusions than we designed. We are escorted on every hand through life by spiritual agents, and a beneficent purpose lies in wait for us.



AFTER every foolish day we sleep off the fumes and furies of its hours.

TRUTH is handsomer than the affectation of love. Your goodness must have some edge to it—else it is none.



THE secret of fortune is joy in our hands. Welcome evermore to gods and men is the self-helping man. For him all doors are flung wide.

THE lover comes to a warmer love of these nobilities Then he passes from loving them in one to loving them in all; and so is the one beautiful soul only the door through which he enters to the society of all true and pure souls.



THE brave soul . . . gives what it hath, and all it hath, but its own majesty can lend a better grace to bannocks and fair water than belong to city feasts.

THE soul will not have
us read any other
cipher but that of cause
and effect. By this veil
which curtains events it
instructs the children of
men to live in to-day.



IF thou fill thy brain with Boston and New York, with fashion and covetousness, and wilt stimulate thy jaded senses with wine and French coffee, thou shalt find no radiance of wisdom in the lonely waste of the pinewoods.

OTHER virtues are in request in the field and workyard, but a certain degree of taste is not to be spared in those we sit with.



THE form of government which prevails, is the expression of what cultivation exists in the population which permits it.

MY life is not an apology, but a life. It is for itself and not for a spectacle. I much prefer that it should be of a lower strain, so it be genuine and equal, than that it should be glittering and unsteady.



DO that which is assigned thee, and thou canst not hope too much or dare too much.

WE have a great deal more kindness than is ever spoken. Maugre all the selfishness that chills like east winds the world, the whole human family is bathed with an element of love like a fine ether.



RARE souls set opinion, success and life at so cheap a rate that they will not soothe their enemies by petitions, or the show of sorrow, but wear their own habitual greatness.

THAT which we are, we shall teach, not voluntarily but involuntarily. Thoughts come into our minds through avenues which we never left open, and thoughts go out of our minds through avenues which we never voluntarily opened.



AH that our Genius were a little more of a genius! We are like millers on the lower levels of a stream, when the factories above them have exhausted the water.

SOCIETY will pardon much to genius and special gifts, but, being in its nature a convention, it loves what is conventional, or what belongs to coming together.



WE are superstitious and esteem the statute somewhat: so much life as it has in the character of living men, is its force.

NOTHING is at last sacred but the integrity of our own mind. Absolve you to yourself, and you shall have the suffrage of the world.



CONSIDER whether you have satisfied your relations to father, mother, cousin, neighbor, town, cat and dog; whether any of these can upbraid you.

BE, and not seem. Let us acquiesce. Let us take our bloated nothingness out of the path of the divine circuits. Let us unlearn our wisdom of the world. Let us lie low in the Lord's power and learn that truth alone makes rich and great.



LET us feel that where the heart is, there the muses, there the gods sojourn, and not in any geography of fame.

EVERY proverb, every book, every byword that belongs to thee for aid or comfort, shall surely come home through open or winding passages. Every friend whom... the great and tender heart in thee craveth, shall lock thee in his embrace.



ALL our days are so unprofitable while they pass, that 'tis wonderful where or when we ever got anything of this which we call wisdom, poetry, virtue. ONCE or twice in a lifetime we are permitted to enjoy the charm of noble manners, in the presence of a man or woman who have no bar in their nature, but whose character emanates freely in their word and gesture.



THE whole constitution of property, on its present tenures, is injurious, and its influence on persons deteriorating and degrading.

IT seems to be a rule of wisdom never to rely on your memory alone, scarcely even in acts of pure memory, but to bring the past for judgment into the thousand-eyed present, and live ever in a new day.



CRIME and punishment grow out of one stem. Punishment is a fruit that unsuspected ripens within the flower of the pleasure which concealed it.

WE are to dignify to each other the daily needs and offices of man's life, and embellish it by courage, wisdom and unity.



To live with some rigor of temperance seems to be an asceticism which common good nature would appoint to those who are at ease and in plenty, in sign that they feel a brotherhood with the great multitude of suffering men.

WE see literature best from the midst of wild nature, or from the din of affairs, or from a high religion. The field cannot be well seen from within the field.



LIFE is a series of surprises God delights to isolate us every day, and hide from us the past and the future.

WE can receive anything from love, for that is a way of receiving it from ourselves; but not from any one who assumes to bestow.



THE highest end of government is the culture of men: and if men can be educated, the institutions will share their improvement, and the moral sentiment will write the law of the land.

DO right now. Always scorn appearances, and you always may. The force of character is cumulative. All the foregone days of virtue work their health into this.



HAS a man gained anything who has received a hundred favors and rendered none?

A SUBLIME hope cheers ever the faithful heart, that elsewhere, in other regions of the Universal Power, souls are now acting, enduring and daring, which can love us and which we can love.



SEE how the deep divine thought demolishes centuries and millenniums, and makes itself present through all ages. Is the teaching of Christ less effective now than it was when first His mouth was opened?

LIFE is a series of surprises. We do not guess to-day the mood, the pleasure, the power of to-morrow, when we are building up our being.



NATURE never rhymes her children, nor makes two men alike. When we see a great man we fancy a resemblance to some historical person, and predict the sequel of his character and fortune—a result which he is sure to disappoint.

MO man can write anything who does not think that what he writes is for the time the history of the world; or do anything well, who does not esteem his work to be of importance.



UNDER any forms, persons and property must and will have their just sway. They exert their power as steadily as matter its attraction.

IT is easy in the world to live after the world's opinion; it is easy in solitude to live after our own: but the great man is he who in the midst of the crowd keeps with perfect sweetness the independence of solitude.



IT is only as a man puts off from himself all external support and stands alone, that I see him to be strong and to prevail. OUR friendships hurry to short and poor conclusions, because we have made them a texture of wine and dreams, instead of the tough fibre of the human heart.



A GREAT man illustrates his place, makes his climate genial in the imagination of men, and its air the beloved element of all delicate spirits. That country is the fairest which is inhabited by the noblest minds.

EVERY man supposes himself not to be fully understood; and if there is any truth in him, if he rests at last on the Divine Soul, I see not how it can be otherwise.



NATURE hates peeping, and our mothers speak her very sense when they say, "Children eat your victuals and say no more of it." To fill the hour—that is happiness.

ARE there not women
... who inspire
us with courtesy; who unloose our tongues, and we
speak; who anoint our
eyes, and we see?



TO every particle of property belongs its own attraction. A cent is the representative of a certain quantity of corn or other commodity.

THE objection to conforming to usages that have become dead to you is that it scatters your force. It loses your time and blurs the impression of your character.



DEAL with Cause and Effect, the chancellors of God. In the Will work and acquire, and thou hast chained the wheel of Chance, and shalt always drag her after thee. THE good spirit of our life has no heaven which is the price of rashness. Love, which is the essence of God, is not for levity, but for the total worth of man.



FRIEND, never strike sail to a fear! Come into port greatly, or sail with God the seas. Not in vain you live, for every passing eye is cheered and refined by the vision.

I SEE and know too well
.... the speedy limits
of persons called high and
worthy. Rich, noble and
great they are by the liberality of our speech, but
truth is sad. O blessed
Spirit, whom I forsake for
these, they are not Thee!



WE live amid surfaces, and the true art of life is to skate well on them. Under the oldest mouldiest conventions, a man of native force prospers just as well as in the newest world, and that by skill of handling and treatment.

EVERYTHING that is called fashion and courtesy humbles itself before the cause and fountain of honor, creator of titles and dignities, namely, the heart of love.



EVERY actual State is corrupt. Good men must not obey the laws too well.

THERE is a great responsible Thinker and Actor moving where-ever moves a man A true man belongs to no other time or place, but is the centre of things.



HE is great who confers the most benefits. He is base—and that is the one base thing in the universe—to receive favors and render none.

AH! seest thou not, O brother, that thus we part only to meet again on a higher platform, and only be more each other's because we are more our own?



THE things we now esteem fixed shall, one by one, detach themselves like ripe fruit from our experience, and fall The landscape, the figures, Boston, London, are facts as fugitive as any institution past.

THE simplest words—
we do not know
what they mean except
when we love and aspire.



I KNOW nothing which life has to offer so satisfying as the profound good understanding which can subsist, after much exchange of good offices, between two virtuous men, each of whom is sure of

himself and sure of his

friend.

IF there were good men, there would never be this rapture in nature. If the King is in the palace, nobody looks at the walls.



WE must trust infinitely to the beneficent necessity which shines through all laws.

> I WILL stand here for humanity, and though I would make it kind, I would make it true. Let us affront and reprimand the smooth mediocrity and squalid contentment of the times.

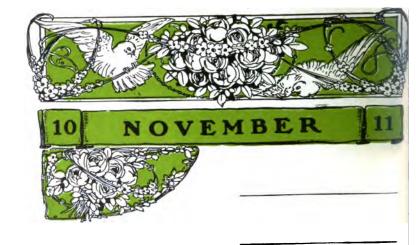


IT is always the part of prudence to face every claimant and pay every just demand on your time, your talents, or your heart. IT is foolish to be arraid of making our ties too spiritual, as if so we could lose any genuine love.



THE emphasis of facts and persons to my soul has nothing to do with time Before the great revelations of the soul, Time, Space and Nature shrink away.

OF acts of routine, and sense, we can tell somewhat; but the masterpieces of God, the total growths and universal movements of the soul, He hideth: they are incalculable.



THE sufficient reply to the skeptic, who doubts the power and the furniture of man, is in that possibility of joyful intercourse with persons, which makes the faith and practice of all reasonable men. NATURE is loved by
what is best in us.
It is loved as the city of
God, although, or rather
because there is no citizen.



EVERY man's nature
is a sufficient advertisement to him of the
character of his fellows.
My right and my wrong
is their right and their
wrong.

IF we cannot at once rise to the sanctities of obedience and faith, let us at least resist our temptations.



PUT God in your debt.

Every stroke shall be repaid. The longer the payment is withholden, the better for you; for compound interest on compound interest is the rate and rule of this exchequer.

ONE might find argument for optimism in the abundant flow of this saccharine element of pleasure in every suburb and extremity of the good world.



THOSE who are capaable of humility, of justice, of love, of aspiration, are already on a platform that commands the sciences and arts, speech and poetry, action and grace.

YOU cannot, with your best deliberation and heed, come so close to any question as your spontaneous glance shall bring you, whilst you rise from your bed, or walk abroad in the morning, after meditating the matter before sleep.



IN the moving crowd of good society, the men of valor and reality are known and rise to their natural place. SHRINKING from cold, starting at sight of a snake, or at a sudden noise, protects us, through a multitude of groundless alarms, from some one real danger at last.



OF all debts, men are least willing to pay the taxes. What a satire is this on government! Everywhere they think they get their money's worth, except for these.

WHENEVER a mind is simple and receives a divine wisdom, then old things pass away—means, teachers, texts, temples fall: it lives now, and absorbs past and future into the present hour.



AS the Sandwich Islander believes that the strength and valor of the enemy he kills passes into himself, so we gain the strength of the temptation we resist.

THE domestic man, who loves no music so well as his kitchen clock and the airs which the logs sing to him as they burn on the hearth, has solaces which others never dream of.



TO the soul in her pure action all the virtues are natural, and not painfully acquired. Speak to his heart, and the man becomes suddenly virtuous.

NOTHING great was
ever achieved without enthusiasm The
great moments of history
are the facilities of performance through the
strength of ideas, as the
works of genius and religion.



THE gentleman is a man of truth, lord of his own actions, and expressing that lordship in his behavior, not in any manner dependent and servile either on persons, or opinions, or possessions.

WE aim above the mark to hit the mark. Every act hath some falsehood of exaggeration in it.



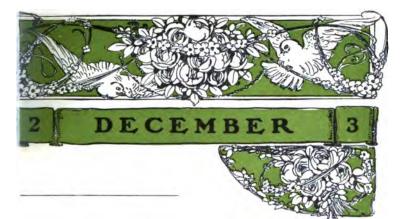
THE less government we have, the better—the fewer laws, and the less confided power. The antidote to this abuse of formal Government is the influence of private character, the growth of the Individual.

WE do not yet see that virtue is Height, and that a man, or a company of men, plastic and permeable to principles, by the law of nature must overpower and ride all cities, nations, kings, rich men, poets, who are not.



BELIEF and love—a believing we love will relieve us of a vast load of care. O my brothers, God exists!

HE who wishes to walk in the most peaceful parts of life with any serenity must screw himself up to resolution. Let him front the object of his worst apprehension, and his stoutness will commonly make his fears groundless.



WE know better than we do. We do not yet possess ourselves, and we know at the same time that we are much more.

THOUGH we travel the world over to find the beautiful, we must carry it with us, or we find it not.



A SAINTED soul is always elegant, and, if it will, passes unchallenged into the most guarded ring.

pective of some other end, which is also temporary: a round and final success nowhere. We are encamped in nature, not domesticated.



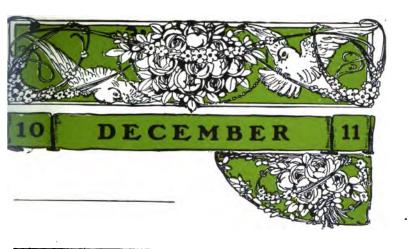
THAT which all things tend to educe, which reedom, cultivation, intercourse, revolutions go to form and deliver, is character.

I AM ashamed to think how easily we capitulate to badges and names, to large societies and dead institutions. Every decent and well-spoken individual affects and sways me more than is right.



REGRET calamities if you can thereby help the sufferer; if not, attend your own work and already the evil begins to be repaired.

LET the great soul incarnated in some woman's form, poor and sad and single, in some Dolly or Joan, go out to service and sweep chambers and scour floors, and its effulgent day-beams cannot be muffled or hid.



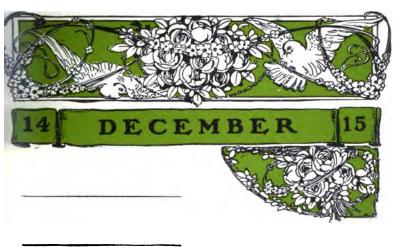
ALL mankind love a lover. The earliest demonstrations of complacency and kindness are nature's most winning pictures.

THIS day shall be better than my birthday: then I became an animal; now I am invited into the science of the real.



THE first point of courtesy must always be truth, as really all the forms of good-breeding point that way.

ONE look at the face of heaven and earth lays all petulance at rest, and soothes us to wiser convictions. To the intelligent, nature converts itself into a vast promise.



TO educate the wise man, the State exists; and with the appearance of the wise man, the State expires. The appearance of character makes the State unnecessary. The wise man is the State.

MY life should be unique: it should be an alms, a battle, a conquest, a medicine.



INSIST on yourself; never imitate. Your own gift you can present every moment with the cumulative force of a whole life's cultivation; but of the adopted talent of another you have only an extemporaneous half possession.

LET the soul be assured that somewhere in the universe it should rejoin its friend, and it would be content and cheerful alone for a thousand years.

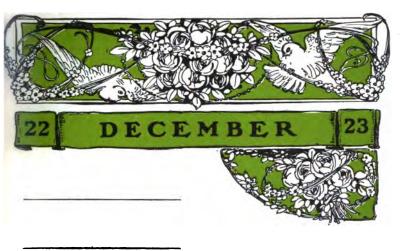


SIMPLE hearts put all the history and customs of this world behind them, and play their own play in innocent defiance of the Blue-laws of the world.

IF he have found his centre, the Deity will shine through him, through all the disguises of ignorance, of ungenial temperament, of unfavorable circumstance.



IN times when we thought ourselves indolent, we have afterwards discovered that much was accomplished and much was begun in us. ACCURACY is essential to beauty and quick perceptions to politeness, but not too quick perceptions.



OF persons, all have equal rights, in virtue of being identical in nature.

UNDER the dominion of an idea, which possesses the minds of multitudes, as civil freedom or the religious sentiment, the powers of persons are no longer subjects of calculation.



I OUGHT to go upright and vital, and speak the rude truth in all ways.

WE come to them who
weep foolishly
and sit down and cry for
company, instead of imparting to them truth and
health in rough electric
shocks, putting them once
more in communication
with the soul.



WE feel that what we love is not in our will, but above it. It is the radiance of you and not you. It is that which you know not in yourself, and can never know.

THE magnanimous know very well that they who give time, or money, or shelter, to the stranger—so it be done for love and not for ostentation—do, as it were, put God under obligation to them, so perfect are the compensations of the universe.



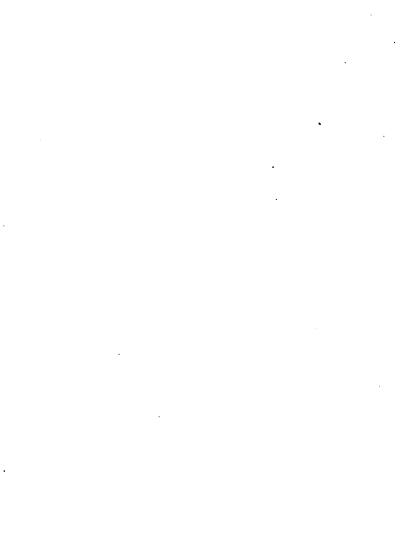
WE know truth when we see it, from opinion, as we know when we are awake that we are awake.

THAT spirit which suffices quiet hearts, which seems to come forth to such from every dry knoll of sere grass, from every pine-stump and half-imbedded stone comes forth to the poor and hungry, and such as are of simple taste.



LET us leave hurry to slaves. The compliments and ceremonies of our breeding should signify, however remotely, the recollection of the grandeur of our destiny.

NATURE is not democratic, nor limited monarchical, but despotic, and will not be fooled or abated of any jot of her authority.



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